



Montana's premier
provider of
medical genetic services
and psychiatric care
for children and
adolescents.

EXHIBIT 21
DATE 3/12/09
HB 695

Senators and Representatives:

As you are aware, the 60th legislature passed SB 162 which revised the "MONTANA GENETICS PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE GENETIC AND METABOLIC CONDITIONS FOR WHICH NEWBORNS ARE SCREENED AND TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CONTRACT FOR FOLLOWUP SERVICES". Shodair Hospital responded to an RFP and was awarded a contract to provide the followup services to the Newborn Screening Program.

Presently the actual Laboratory testing for most of this program is completed in the State of Wisconsin with 4 tests being done in the Montana State Laboratory. Shodair Hospital has been contemplating offering this testing here at Shodair for about four years. We have done extensive research and have visited several labs throughout the United States with newborn screening capabilities. The start-up costs of the project have been the only deterrent to our proceeding with such a testing program, namely the cost of two tandem mass spectrometers. One would be used for the testing and one for backup. The cost of these two pieces of equipment is right at 1.3 million dollars.

Use of Stimulus Money:

Shodair Hospital proposes that 1.67 million dollars be used to bring the Newborn Screening back to Montana. The most logical place to house this type of testing in Montana is at Shodair Hospital where we have the Montana Genetics, an existing specialty laboratory with the expertise to manage such a program, medical expertise, and finally the followup program for newborn screening. About 1.0 to 1.3 million dollars would be used for equipment, 150,000 for building modifications and the remainder for startup costs until the program becomes self sustaining.

Equipment - 2 tandem mass spectrometers	\$650,000 each
Building Modifications	\$150,000
Startup Reagent and Salaries	\$220,000

This proposal has all the elements that one would want in a project for the "Stimulus Money"

- A. Improved patient care.
- B. Creating approximately 10 -14 well paying jobs in Montana.
- C. The program would be self supporting in 90 to 120 days.



Shodair
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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- D. Return Montana taxpayers money to Montana.
- E. This program and equipment would enhance a long time asset of Montana, "The Montana Medical Genetic Program".

Additionally this type of equipment can be used to analyze substances of unknown origin and quickly determine if those who come into contact with the substance are at risk. There are many law enforcement and homeland security applications that this equipment can be used for in conjunction with the expanded medical testing applications.

Scientific Explanation:

A tandem mass spectrometer (MS/MS) is essentially two spectrometers analyzing samples in series. The first spectrometer separates molecules in a sample by size. These separated particles are then subjected to an atomic collision in the second machine, further fractionating the sample. These resulting particles are sized based on mass/charge ratio. Fragment patterns are characteristic for specific compounds, with an occasional overlap in molecular compounds with the same mass/charge ratio not otherwise separable by MS/MS.

In the case of newborn screening, MS/MS is measuring amino acids, organic acids, and acylcarnitines in a newborn blood sample. These analyses allow for detection of some 41 disorders of amino, organic, and fatty acid metabolism otherwise not detected by conventional screening methods. An expert panel recommended primary screening for 19 of these disorders, but with the potential to report on all 41. A "core" panel of these 19 disorders detected by MS/MS, along with 10 other disorders previously screened for by different methods, is now recommended for all U.S. newborns. Almost all 50 states and US Territories have implemented such screening.

As you can see this is state of the art science that will benefit the children of Montana for years to come.

If this is something that you think you as legislators would like to see happen, together we can make it happen. Please contact me at Shodair 444-7505.

Thanks

as a part of the combined, comprehensive statewide genetics program established under section 50-19-211.

50-19-203. Newborn screening and followup for metabolic and genetic disorders.
(1) A person in charge of a facility in which a child is born or a facility in which a newborn is provided care or a person responsible for the registration of the birth of a newborn shall ensure that each newborn is administered tests designed to detect inborn metabolic and genetic disorders as required under rules adopted by the department.

(2) The tests must be done by an approved laboratory. An approved laboratory must be the laboratory of the department or a laboratory approved by the department.

(3) The department shall contract with one or more providers qualified to provide followup services, including counseling and education, for children and parents of children identified with metabolic or genetic disorders to ensure the availability of followup services.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6711; and Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2007.

Compiler's Comments

2007 Amendment: Chapter 401 in (1) in three places substituted "newborn" for "infant" or "newborn infant" and near end after "metabolic" substituted "and genetic disorders" for "errors"; inserted (3) requiring the department to contract with one or more qualified providers to provide followup services for children and parents of children identified with metabolic or genetic disorders; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2007.

Cross-References

Newborn hearing screening, Title 53, ch. 19, part 4.